

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UR

SUBJ: WEATHER AND CROPS REPORT

1. MASSIVE HARVESTING OF GRAINS AND FORAGE CROPS IS UNDERWAY IN MOST REGIONS OF THE EUROPEAN USSR. HARVESTING HOWEVER WAS DIFFICULT IN MANY REGIONS DUE TO HEAVY DOWNPOURS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY. DURING THE THIRD DECADE OF JULY HEAVY RAINS WERE RECORDED IN THE FOLLOWING REGIONS: WESTERN HALF OF UKRAINE, BELORUSSIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, CENTRAL CHERNOZEM ZONE, CENTRAL OBLAST OF NON-CHERNOZEM REGION, MIDDLE VOLGA AND THE URALS. THESE REGIONS, OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE TO EIGHT DAYS, RECEIVED FROM 1.5 TO OVER TWO INCHES OF RAIN. SOME PARTS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED AS MUCH AS THREE TO FOUR INCHES.

2. SUNFLOWER WAS REPORTED IN EXCELLENT CONDITION IN ALL AREAS OF ITS CULTIVATION. IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE AND NORTH CAUCASUS RIPENING STAGE WAS SIX TO EIGHT DAYS EARLIER THAN USUAL. AVERAGE PLANT HEIGHT IN THESE AREAS REACHED BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN FEET AND THE DIAMETER OF THE FLOWER RANGED FROM SEVEN TO NINE INCHES. IN OTHER AREAS OF SUNFLOWER CULTIVATION SEED WAS BEGINNING TO FORM.

3. CORN WAS DEVELOPING WELL UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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AREAS WHERE CORN IS CULTIVATED FOR GRAIN THE FORMATION OF THE

COB AND KERNEL IS TAKING PLACE. IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE AND IN MANY AREAS OF NORTH CAUCASUS EARLY PLANTED CORN HAD REACHED MILKY STAGE.

4. POTATOES, IN MOST REGIONS, COMPLETED BLOOMING STAGE AND WERE FORMING TUBERS. AVERAGE TUBER WEIGHT UNDER ONE PLANT WAS REPORTED BETWEEN 250 AND 500 GRAMS (ONE-FOURTH TO ONE-HALF POUND APPRXIMATELY). THIS REPORTEDLY IS ONE AND ONE-HALF TO TWO TIMES GREATER THAN A YEAR AGO. SUGARBEETS CONTINUED TO DEVELOP THE ROOTH UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS AND SUFFICIENT SOIL MOISTURE.

5. MILLET WAS REPORTED RIPE IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN UKRAINE, ROSTOV OBLAST AND LOWER VOLGA. AVERAGE HEIGHT OF MILLET WAS BETWEEN TWO AND THREE FEET. THE CROP REPORTEDLY IS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. IN OTHER REGIONS GRAIN FORMATION IS CONTINUING. BUCKWEAT WAS RIPE IN NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN UKRAINE. IN THE CENTRAL CHERNOZEM ZONE AND MIDDLE VOLGA BUCKWEAT CONTINUED TO BLOOM AND FORM NEW SEEDS. SUFFICIENT MOISTURE AND WARM WEATHER FAVORABLY AFFECTED THE FORMATION OF GOOD QUALITY SEED.

6. IN WESTERN SIBERIA AND NORTHERN OBLASTS OF KAZAKHSTAN SPRING WEAT HAD REACHED GRAIN FORMATION STAGE, WHILE IN REGIONS PLANTED EARLIER WHEAT REPORTEDLY WAS IN MILD STAGE. CONDITIONS FOR GRAIN FORMATION IN MOST AREAS WERE FAVORABLE. IN GENERAL, GRAIN DEVELOPMENT STAGE IS ABOUT NORMAL, AND BY THE 10TH OF AUGUST IT SHOULD REACH WAX STAGE AT WHICH TIME HARVESTING CAN BEGIN IN THE STEPPE REGIONS OF ALTAI KRAY, PAVLODAR AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF KUSTANAI OBLAST. BY AUGUST 20 EARLIER PLANTED WHEAT WILL REACH WAX STAGE SOUTH OF THE LINE KURGAN-OMSK AND NOVOSIBIRSK. AREAS THAT WERE PLANTED AT THE END OF MAY SHOULD BE MATURE AT THE END OF AUGUST.

7. IN CENTRAL ASIA, COTTON WAS ADVANCING WELL UNDER FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND IN A BOLL FORMATION STAGE.

8. SOURCE: "SELSKAYA-ZHIZN'," AUGUST 4.
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